



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF HEALTH LICENSURE AND REGULATIONS
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
CORDELL HULL BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR
425 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37247-0701

March 17, 2005

Dear Ambulance Service Director:

The old EMS Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) form has been replaced. The new Physician Order for Scope of Treatment (POST - attached) form has been authorized under state law to improve care of terminal patients.

The state Health Care Decisions Act of 2004 repealed the EMS/DNR law and authorized the Board for Licensing Health Care Facilities to approve a new form. On March 1, 2005 the BLHCF approved the POST form for use in directing care for terminal patients- it serves as a universal DNR form. It corrects problems with the old EMS/DNR law it that it may be used with incompetent patients and requires a written plan of care for such patients. The POST form has also been adopted in fourteen other states.

The old EMS/DNR form remains in effect only for those patients who have previously completed a DNR form. From this time forward the POST form is to be used for DNR patients. This form and others authorized under the Act are authorized as model forms for use in health care facilities. A completed POST form with DNR indicated is a legal physicians DNR order that must be honored by all EMS providers. Downloadable forms are available of the Health Department's website (www.state.tn.us/health) along with information concerning the Act; a power point tutorial on the form and other aspects of the law are included.

Please post this letter and form and conduct in-service training for your personnel as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Joseph B. Phillips
Director

You will also find the "MODEL POST FORMS" and the law under the **Advanced Directives** button located on the EMS Home Page tool bar.